

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 009740

R 291256Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RIKSDAG FINALLY ACHIEVES TIE VOTE

REF: STOCKHOLM 1252

SUMMARY: SWEDISH RIKSDAG FINALLY ACHIEVED TIE VOTES ON MARCH 27-28, FORCING USE OF THE DRAWING OF YES/NO LOTS FROM A BOX. CONSENSUS OF PRESS REACTION IS THAT BUMBLING DISPLAY IN RIKSDAG SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, AND NEW ELECTION IS ONLY SOLUTION. PALME, HOWEVER, HAS NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER EARLIER AWKWARD FAILURES TO ACHIEVE EXPECTED TIE VOTES (DESCRIBED REFTEL), RIKSDAG DEMONSTRATED MARCH 27-28 THAT ITS MEMBERS CAN PUSH RIGHT BUTTONS. BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET LEARNT HOW TO BE PROPERLY PAIRED IN CASE OF A VALID EXCUSE FOR NOT BEING PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER.

2. THREE VOTES WERE TAKEN ON MINOR ISSUES MARCH 27 AND ONE ON MARCH 28 WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

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A. THE FIRST VOTE DEALT WITH A RESOLUTION TO TURN

DOWN AN OPPOSITION PROPOSAL TO GIVE GOVERNMENT GRANTS  
TO CERTAIN ENTERPRISES FOR IMPROVING WORKING ENVIRONMENT.  
THE VOTE REGISTERED AS 170 TO 170, WITH ONLY FIVE  
MEMBERS (ALL PROPERLY PAIRED) ABSENT FGM EACH BLOC,  
THUS PRODUCING THE HISTORIC FIRST TIE VOTE SINCE THE  
SEPT. 1973 ELECTION PRODUCED A 175-175 DEADLOCK IN THE  
RIKSDAG. THE SPEAKER PRODUCED A BROWN BOX, A LIBERAL  
PULLED OUT ONE OF TWO TALLIES, WHICH WAS "NO", AND  
THE GOVERNMENT LOST ON THE RESOLUTION.

B. THE SECOND VOTE WAS ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT RESO-  
LUTION ABOUT A STUDY OF INNOVATION EFFORTS IN INDUSTRY--  
AGAIN A TIE WAS EXPECTED, BUT THE ELECTRONIC TALLY  
SHOWED 170 TO 169 IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS  
THEN DISCOVERED THAT FORMER CENTER PARTY LEADER GUNNAR  
HEDLUND HAD GONE HOME TO VISIT HIS CONVALESCING WIFE  
AND HAD NOT BOtherED TO FIND A PAIR, AS HE DID NOT  
EXPECT ANOTHER DEADLOCKED VOTE.

C. THE THIRD VOTE--AN OPPOSITION PROPOSAL GIVING  
STATE ORGANS A FREE HAND TO DO BUSINESS WITH OTHER  
PRINTERS THAN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE--ALSO  
OCCURRED WITH HEDLUND ABSENT, BUT IT HAPPENED THAT  
CENTER LEADER THORBJORN FALLDIN WAS PAIRED FOR THAT  
VOTE WITH AN ABSENT SOCDEM MEMBER. HE WAS IN THE  
CHAMBER, HOWEVER, AND GOT PERMISSION TO SHIFT HIS  
PAIRING TO HEDLUND AND THUS WAS ABLE TO VOTE. RESULT  
168 TO 168, NEW "YES" AND "NO" MARKERS IN THE BROWN  
BOX, AND A NEW VICTORY FOR THE OPPOSITION IN THE DRAW.

D. FOURTH VOTE, MARCH 28, WAS ON A PERENNIAL  
BOURGEOIS PROPOSAL TO ALLOW TAX DEDUCTION FOR CHARITABLE  
GIFTS. VOTE WAS 163-163, ANOTHER LOTTERY, AND THIS TIME  
GOVERNMENT WON.

COMMENT: THE FOUR VOTES GAVE EDITORIAL WRITERS ANOTHER  
CHANCE TO ACHIEVE BON MOTS AT THE EXPENSE OF RIKSDAG,  
BUT BOTH SOCDEM AND OPPOSITION EDITORS ARE IN AGREEMENT  
THAT SUCH NONSENSEAS MISSED BUTTONS,ABSENT MEMBERS,  
AND LOTTERY DECISIONS, SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE  
AND NEW ELECTION IS ONLY SOLUTION. PALME, HOWEVER, HAS  
SPOKEN CAUTIOUSLY ON SUBJECT OF NEW ELECTION IN SERIES  
OF MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS DURING LAST  
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FEW DAYS. PRESS REPORTS THAT LOCAL SOCDEM LEADERS  
OVERWHELMINGLY FAVOR NEW ELECTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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